Rail projects under construction

†2219. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects were under construction in March, 2001;

(b) if so, the total number thereof, the number of projects running behind their original schedule and by how much time; and

(c) the percentage increase in construction cost of each of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways has a large shelf of ongoing Railway projects and in March 2001, 281 projects were under construction pertaining to New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Metropolitan Transport Projects and Railway Electrification plan heads with an anticipated cost of over Rs. 45,000 Crores. The time over run can be calculated in those cases where the time schedule for completion of the project with matching availability of resources can be planned and assured at the time of taking up of the project. In case of Railway projects, the plan size is determined annually and as such, no estimation of time over run is feasible. Progress of these projects is dependent on availability of funds from year to year.

(c) This would be known as and when project gets completed in all respects depending upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Tatkal Seva

†2220. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many trains in the country, Tatkal Seva reservation facility is available at present;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.